

WATH-UPON-DEARNE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

AND THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR

1954

WATH-UPON-DEARNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Sanitary Inspector :

W. W. WILKINSON, M.S.I.A., Cert.S.I.B.

**Annual Report of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the Year 1954.**

Public Health Department,
Dunford House,
Doncaster Road,
Wath-upon-Dearne.

To the Chairman and Members of the

Wath-upon-Dearne Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present to you the Annual Report on the health of the district for year ending 31st December, 1954.

There was a most extensive outbreak of influenza in the months of November and December with a high attack rate. School attendances fell to 50% in some schools. There was a similar sickness, though not on such an extensive scale amongst adults. The cause was influenza virus type B. This type of virus produces a relatively mild type of influenza but the infectivity as with all influenza virus is high.

There were 7 infant deaths, with an Infant Mortality rate of 29.6 compared to the National rate of 25.5. This is the first time since 1949 that the district has had a higher Infant Mortality rate than the National or County Rates. Three of the deaths were due to infective causes, the remainder to prematurity and congenital defects.

Apart from a small outbreak of measles and a smaller one of whooping cough there was a low incidence of infectious diseases. Five fresh cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified, a low number considering that we had a visit from the Mass X-ray Unit in the Autumn of the year. There was no maternal death, the last death from this cause being in 1951. There were four deaths from lung cancer, only one from Respiratory Tuberculosis.

Atmospheric Pollution remains severe, particularly in the Doncaster Road end of the district but the National Coal Board have promised that this will be greatly reduced when electrification of the winding gear at Manvers No. 3 pit is completed. This is scheduled for August, 1955. Apart from this and some other factory chimneys the rest of the pollution in Wath is blown in from other districts or is domestic. The burning of raw coal instead of smokeless fuel causes pollution on all the housing estates and aggravates it in the central area. Whose smoke do we want to get rid of? Our own or someone else's? Smoke aggravates all chest complaints and causes bronchitis and is maybe a factor in the observed high incidence of lung cancer in industrial areas. It is produced by the imperfect combustion of coal and, therefore, represents so much waste of one of this country's vital natural assets. This is bad enough but when the cost in health and physical damage to property is also assessed it seems time that this Pollution was treated seriously by the whole community.

Continued satisfactory progress was made in re-housing ; 74 houses being erected for the Council and 18 for private owners. Draft proposals for slum clearance were prepared and eventually it was considered that 250 such houses might be dealt with in a five year period.

In July the slaughtering of livestock was recommenced in the district and since that time the Sanitary Inspector has been inspecting all locally slaughtered meat.

During the course of the year the Sanitary Inspector made routine samples of milk, water, water from the swimming baths, Ice Cream and Artificial Cream as used in the manufacture of confectionary—this latter substance can be very easily contaminated and advice was given to limit the possibility of any dangerous contamination.

All these varying activities are carried out with one aim, to protect and improve the Health of the citizens of the district. Our Health statistics are most satisfactory for an industrial area apart from the slight rise in our infant mortality.

I thank the Council for their support in our efforts and Mr. Wilkinson the Sanitary Inspector and all who have assisted in the work of the department.

I remain,

Your Obedient Servant,

D. J. CUSITER,

Medical Officer of Health.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF WATH-UPON-DEARNE URBAN DISTRICT.

Area (in acres)	2,665
Population (Census 1951)	13,928
Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population, mid-1954	14,030
Natural Increase of Population in 1954	85
Number of Inhabited Houses (Census 1931)	3,375
Number of Inhabited Houses (31st December, 1955)	4,559
Nett Product of a Penny Rate	£240 15s. 5d.
Rateable Value	£59,226
Height above Sea Level	70-325 ft.
Rainfall for Year	28.47 ins.

The major industry is coal mining and production of by-products from coal and the transport of these out of the district. There is a large surplus of female labour in the area. Apart from this there was full employment throughout the year.

The rainfall for the year at 28 ins. was higher than is usual, in fact, 10 ins. more than in 1953.

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1954.

	1954	Eng. & Wales 1953	1954
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population :			
Crude	16.82	18.66	15.2
Adjusted	16.15	19.78	*
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 population	0.43	0.28	*
Death Rate per 1,000 population :			
Crude	10.76	9.62	11.3
Adjusted	12.05	10.20	*
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	29.66	22.90	25.5
Neo-natal death rate per 1,000 live births	16.95	10.39	17.7
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 births	Nil	Nil	0.69

* Figures not available.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1954 IN DETAIL.

	Males	Females	Total
Live Births : Legitimate	119	107	226
Illegitimate	6	4	10
Total Live Births			236
Stillbirths : Legitimate	3	3	6
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Deaths of Infants under one year :			
Legitimate	1	5	6
Illegitimate	—	1	1
Deaths (all ages)	90	61	151

Stillbirths :

Rate per 1,000 births (live and still)	24.89
Comparability Factors :	
Births	0.96
Deaths	1.12

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :

	Deaths	Death Rate per 1,000 births (live and still)
Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis ..	Nil	—
Other Maternal Causes	Nil	—

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :

All infants per 1,000 live births	29.66
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	26.28
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	100.00
Neo-Natal death rate	16.95

Causes of Death in 1954 :

	Males	Females
1. Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	1	—
2. Tuberculosis (Other)	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	1	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8. Measles	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	—	—
10. Cancer of Stomach	8	4
11. Cancer of Bronchus or lungs	4	—
12. Cancer of Breast	—	1
13. Cancer of Uterus	—	1
14. Other cancer or lymphatic cancer ..	5	4
15. Leukaemia or Aleukaemia	1	—
16. Diabetes	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of the nervous system	10	4
18. Coronary disease or Angina	16	7
19. Hypertension with heart disease ..	4	2
20. Other heart disease	17	19
21. Other circulatory disease	1	2
22. Influenza	—	—
23. Pneumonia	2	2
24. Bronchitis	5	1
25. Other diseases of the respiratory system	—	—
26. Ulcer of the stomach and duodenum ..	—	—
27. Gastritis, Enteritis or Diarrhoea ..	1	1
28. Nephritis or Nephrosis	1	1
29. Enlarged prostate	1	—

30.	Pregnancy, childbirth or abortion	..	—	—
31.	Congenital malformation	.. ..	1	1
32.	Other defined or ill-defined diseases	.. ..	5	7
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	.. ..	1	1
34.	All other accidents	.. ..	4	2
35.	Suicide	.. ..	—	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	.. ..	—	—
Totals			90	61

The illegitimate death rate appears high but this represents only one death in 10 illegitimate births and is not a true rate when brought up to a ratio of one thousand. The main causes of death are as in previous years: heart disease, diseases of blood vessels and cancer. All diseases in the main are of an ageing population. Ten per cent of the population in the district is over 65 years of age.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.

<i>Cause of Death</i>				<i>Age</i>	<i>Died at</i>
1.	Cerebral Haemorrhage and Prematurity	..		1 day	Hospital
2.	Inanation and prematurity	.. ..		30 days	Home
3.	Birth Debility and Atelectasis	.. ..		2 hours	Home
4.	Gastro-Enteritis	.. ..		4 months	Hospital
5.	Gastro-Enteritis	.. ..		6 months	Hospital
6.	Foetal Abnormality, anencephaly Incompatible with life and Prematurity	..		5 mins.	Hospital
7.	Broncho-Pneumonia and Prematurity	..		3 months	Home

As already noted the Infant Mortality rate is higher than the National rate and W.R.C.C. rate for the first time since 1949, although even at that, it is still a perfectly good rate for an industrial area. Two of the deaths were specially investigated as these were from gastro-enteritis. There had been contact between the mothers of the babies who lived close to each other. Post-Mortem examination revealed that both died from infection with the same type of Baccillus—Coli O/128. This germ was cultured from specimens obtained post-mortem, by the General Public Health Laboratory, Colindale, London. All cultures during life were negative.

This type of organism has been the cause of many severe outbreaks of Gastro-Enteritis in infants in this country. Fortunately, in this instance no further cases arose nor were there any others in the district at that time, although there were some in neighbouring districts.

In all other instances prematurity or congenital defects was the cause of death. There are many known causes of prematurity, some are unknown. Good nutrition of the mother, plenty of meat, fish, eggs, cheese, milk and a small amount of bread and starch foods should prevent a lot of prematurity. Most mothers require a lot of iron during pregnancy in order to make up for the drain of maternal iron to the unborn child. If

this is not supplied by taking iron tablets regularly the mother will become anaemic and the baby may be born prematurely and if so will certainly be anaemic also. This lessens the chance of survival.

Section B GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Hospital Services.

Hospital Services are unchanged from previous reports. Wath Wood Tuberculosis Sanatorium is now well established and patients from the district are from time to time admitted for treatment.

Ambulance Service.

This is provided by the County Ambulance Service operating from the depot at Dunford House. The Depot Superintendent is Mr. F. Hyde. Some of the vehicles are equipped with wireless. The alterations at the depot are completed and include heated garages—stores—workshops for maintenance—an inspection pit and central heating plant. There is an office block and a kitchen equipped with gas cooker—a changing room with showers and a rest room for those on stand-by duty. These considerable alterations were carried out by modification of existing out-buildings at Dunford House and have transformed the Depot. All drivers and attendants receive instruction in First Aid and some in Home Nursing also.

Infectious Diseases by Wards.

Ward	Scarlet Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Menin- goccal Infection	Whooping Cough	Measles
Central	11	2	1	6	25
Wharncliffe	3	—	—	—	7
Winterwell	1	—	—	11	18
Melton	1	1	—	8	14
East	1	—	—	—	17
Totals	17	3	1	25	81

There was a remarkably low incidence of infectious disease. Immunisation against whooping cough should be carried out in early infancy. A start ought to be made at the 3rd month of age as this disease is most serious in young infants and may cause life long crippling of the chest, and in some cases the child may die.

There were no cases of Poliomyelitis.

Tuberculosis.

Number on Register at 31st December, 1954.

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	33	21	54
Non-pulmonary	7	5	12

Number removed from Register during 1954.

	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Total
	Males	Females	Males	Females	
Deaths	1	—	—	—	1
Others (Cured, re-diagnosed, transfers, etc.)	3	3	—	2	8
Totals ..	4	3	—	2	9

Additions to Register during 1954.

	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Total
	Males	Females	Males	Females	
New notifications ..	4	1	—	—	5
Others (Restored, Transfers in, etc.)	2	—	—	—	2
Totals ..	6	1	—	—	7

New Notifications—Pulmonary.

Age Groups					Males	Females
0— 5 years .. .. .	..	..	..	..	—	—
5—15 „ .. .. .	..	..	..	..	—	—
15—25 „ .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	—
25—35 „ .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	1
35—45 „ .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	—
45—65 „ .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	—
Totals .. .. .	..	..	..	..	4	1

	1954	1953	1954
	Wath	Wath	Eng. & Wales
Tuberculosis Death Rate	0.07	0.21	0.18

Tuberculosis.

There were 5 fresh notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis, half as many as in 1953.

Cases are admitted to local sanatoria at Wath Wood, Crookhill, and sometimes further afield. One of my Health Visitors visits the Wath Wood Sanatorium regularly and acts as contact between the patients and the Divisional Medical Officers and also assists in dealing with any personal problems the patient may have. There is in addition a Tuberculosis Health Visitor, Nurse Dodds, who visits the patients in their homes and acts as a link between the Local Authority and the Chest Physician. Where re-housing is required the Council have re-housed all cases when this is necessary. The County scheme covers After-care, free milk, bedding and beds where required for home isolation. The present position is satisfactory.

All school children are now jelly tested when they enter school to see if they have been exposed to infection.

Section 47, National Assistance Act, 1948.

This provides for the removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention. No action was taken in the district during 1954.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area and Housing.

Extensions were provided for the Housing Estate in course of development at West Melton. Mining subsidence caused damage at the sewage disposal works.

Water Supply.

This is a supply of highest purity obtained from bore holes in the valley bottom. It is filtered and chlorinated. Nine chemical samples were taken and 20 Bacteriological. All were satisfactory. Supplies were restricted in part of the area for one week in October due to breakdown in the plant.

Housing.

The development of the new estate at West Melton proceeds apace. 74 houses were constructed for the Council and 18 for private owners. A preliminary survey suggested that it might be possible to deal with 250 unfit houses in a five year period.

Smoke Abatement.

There is serious atmospheric pollution in the district—in the central and N.E. areas this is due to industry. Elsewhere it is entirely due to burning raw coal in domestic fires of the open variety. It affects the health particularly of the young and old causing bronchitis. The pollution will cease when the general public are made to realize that coal should be used for its by-products—chemicals etc. and that the residue smokeless fuel or coke or gas or electricity should be used for heating and cooking in the home. Both Back to Back fireplaces and the parlour type of fireplace installed in the Council Houses burn coke satisfactory, and produce no smoke in the process.

PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES—DIVISION 26.

(Rawmarsh, Swinton and Wath Urban Districts).

Summary of Vital Statistics for 1953 and 1954 for Division 26

	1954	1953
Area of Division	7,990	acres
Estimated Population	45,250	
Birth Rate (per 1,000 estimated population) ..	17.24	17.80
Death Rates (per 1,000 estimated population) :		
All Causes	10.65	10.18
Cancer	1.66	1.76
Heart and Circulatory	4.42	3.69
Infective and parasitic diseases, excluding T.B.	0.11	0.07
Respiratory Diseases	0.97	1.07
Respiratory Tuberculosis	0.11	0.04
Other Tuberculosis	Nil	0.07
All Tuberculosis	0.11	0.11
Maternal Mortality	Nil	Nil
Infant Mortality (Rate per 1,000 live births) ..	29.45	26.22

Comparative Table of Vital Statistics for Urban and Rural Districts in the West Riding and England and Wales for 1954.

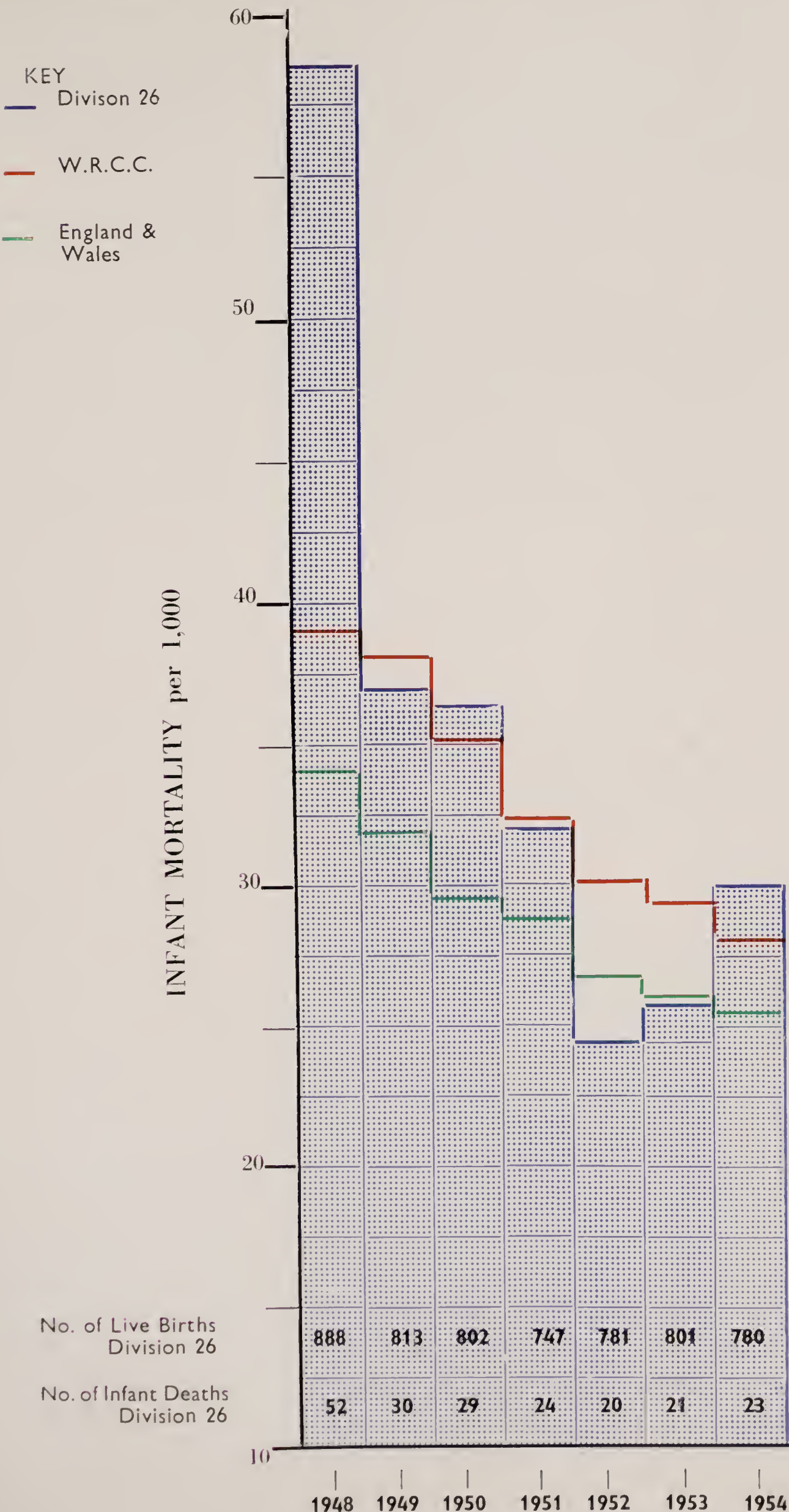
	Live Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infective and Parasitic Dis's. excluding T.B. Death Rate	Respiratory Diseases Death Rate	Heart and Circulatory Diseases	Cancer	Tuberculosis Death Rate All Forms	Infant Mortality Rate	Maternal Mortality
Division 26 ..	17.24	10.65	0.11	0.97	4.42	1.66	0.11	29.45	Nil
U.D.'s in West Riding	14.7	12.7	0.07	1.27	4.88	2.12	0.19	28.3	0.80
R.D.'s in West Riding	16.3	9.9	0.08	1.08	3.64	1.70	0.14	27.2	1.10
Administrative County ..	15.1	11.9	0.08	1.22	4.54	2.01	0.18	28.0	0.89
England and Wales ..	15.2	11.3	*	*	*	2.04	0.18	25.5	0.69

* Figures not available.

All figures per 1,000 population except last two columns.

There was no maternal death in the year under review. The infant mortality rate shows an increase on the previous year and is again slightly higher than the National Rate or the County Rate due to the fact that we lost two more infants from a smaller total of births but the rate remains below 30 per 1000 which is satisfactory for an industrial area. The Tuberculosis death rate and that for other chest diseases remain at a remarkably low level for an industrial area.

Infant Mortality Rates per 1,000, 1948 to 1954



Home Nursing Service in Division 26.

The staff consists of 7 full time nurses and three part time.

	<i>No. of Cases Assisted</i>						<i>Visits</i>
1954	1211	..	..	..	30008
1953	1034	..	..	..	25348
1952	845	..	..	..	22526

Our Home Nurses are carrying out twenty more visits every day than in 1952. Staffing presents problems but the Home Nurses have worked exceedingly well throughout the year and in Rawmarsh in particular we have managed to get a Home Nurse resident on one of the new estates, the District Council having allocated a house to the Home Nurse—the nearer the home nurse lives to her district the more visits she can pay in the same time. The service is free and the nurses are requested to visit by the Family Doctor who instructs the nurse in the care of each individual patient.

General supervision of the service is the responsibility of the Divisional Medical Officer. Equipment for the nursing of patients is maintained at Dunford House and specialised items can be obtained from the County pool. The Service is expanding yearly.

Infant Welfare and Health Visiting Service.

Centre	Doctor in Charge	No. of individual children who attended during the year	Total No. of attendances made by children in previous column during the year	
			Under 1 yr. of age	Over 1 yr. of age
Wath ..	Dr. M. Lister	332	1510	334
West Melton ..	Dr. M. Lister	200	1202	681
Swinton ..	Dr. I. Campbell	363	2942	564
Kilnhurst ..	Dr. J. Core	117	603	334
Rawmarsh ..	Dr. J. Core	396	1390	410
Parkgate ..	Dr. M. R. Menzies	123	456	132
Totals ..		1521	8103	2455

No. of Home Visits made by Health Visitors within the Division during the Year :

	First Visits				Total Visits
Expectant Mothers	120	219
Children under 1 year	706	5395
Children between 1 and 5	*	8470
Other cases	*	5164
Totals	826	19,248

* Figures not available.

The Health Visiting service was fully staffed throughout the year. The Health Visitors are responsible for the home visiting of children after the 14th day, for staffing the school clinics and infant welfare centres and for general supervision of the Ante-Natal Clinics. They visit the aged who are not receiving care from the Home Nurses and they are responsible for the supervision of the Home Helps. They have many other duties such as preparing reports for hospital almoners and background reports for Consultants in the Hospital Service ; their function is preventive and educative. In order to eliminate complaints from any Family Doctor that he cannot contact a Health Visitor the Health Committee of the County Council had telephones installed in their homes. When these were installed the Family Doctors were notified of the telephone numbers. It is essential that both Health Visitors or Family Doctors should be able to discuss any problem directly. They work for the whole family but in particular concentrate on the two most vulnerable groups, the young and the aged. They have been extra busy in the past year.

Maternity Services.

BIRTHS.

			Domiciliary	Institutional	Proportion of Domiciliary to Institutional
Wath .. ..	..	..	141	101	7: 5
Swinton ..	..	..	140	70	2: 1
Rawmarsh ..	..	..	181	167	9: 8

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.

Clinic	Doctor in Charge	No. of women who attended	No. of women who attended for blood exam. only	Total No. of attendances made by women
Wath	Dr. D. Chapman	88	36	583
Swinton ..	Dr. H. H. Smith	163	—	709
Rawmarsh ..	Dr. M. Scott	256	—	1009
Totals ..		507	36	2301

POST NATAL CLINICS.

(Held jointly with Ante-Natal Clinics).

Clinic	Doctor in Charge	Number of women who attended	Total No. of attendances made by women
Wath	Dr. D. Chapman	34	35
Swinton ..	Dr. H. H. Smith	39	46
Rawmarsh ..	Dr. M. Scott	35	56
Totals ..		108	137

RELAXATION CLASSES.

Clinic	Officer in Charge	Number of women who attended	Total No. of attendances made by women
Swinton ..	Midwife F. Launders	33	200
* Wath ..	Midwife M. Barber	53	391

* Commenced 12/5/54.

For the third consecutive year there was no Maternal death in the division. Ante-Natal clinics are held weekly in each of the Urban Districts, Wath, Swinton and Rawmarsh. In cases where mothers do not attend an Ante-Natal Clinic and have been booked for home delivery it is the duty of the Midwife to visit and examine the case at home. The difficult staffing position in Rawmarsh noted in 1953 was relieved by the appointment of Nurse F. M. Williams and Nurse M. Foster. All districts are now fully staffed and in all districts most midwives live in close proximity to their district. The staff at the end of the year consisted of 9 midwives and one relief midwife.

Relaxation Classes are held in Wath and Swinton for mothers expecting their first baby. The midwives instruct the mother in what is the course of normal childbirth and teach them how to relax.

All midwives are trained in the method of using gas and air analgesia and pethidine.

PREMATURE BIRTHS.

District	Born Alive			Still-born			No. Rem. to Hosp. after Birth	No. who survived 28 days		
	At Home	In Hosp.	Total	At Home	In Hosp.	Total		At Home	In Hosp.	Total
Wath ..	12	14	26	—	3	3	1	11	12	23
Swinton ..	8	4	12	—	1	1	2	6	3	9
Rawmarsh..	6	20	26	—	2	2	1	6	15	21
Totals ..	26	38	64	—	6	6	4	23	30	53

There were no less than 64 babies born in this category—almost twice as many as in 1953. Of this total 11 did not survive to the 28th day. In other words almost 50 per cent of the total infant mortality of the division was due to prematurity with its associated defects. There are many causes of this condition and possibly are equally large number of cases where there is no known cause. Now that the infective diseases of infancy have been overcome it remains for the Health Services to concentrate on the prevention of prematurity where this is possible. Special arrangements exist for the care of such babies both at home and in hospital.

Care of the Unmarried Mother and her Child.

There were 24 illegitimate births in the division. Twenty three of these came to our notice. In 18 cases the mother kept the baby—this is

the best solution if it is possible to do so. In 3 cases the parents married—in one case the infant was adopted, and one infant died. Special care is devoted to this section of the community as they tend to avoid ante-natal supervision and they require sympathetic assistance. Miss Spooner, a Voluntary Welfare Worker of the Church of England, assists these cases irrespective of religion and advice and accommodation care is arranged for the confinement by the Health Committee of the County Council.

Welfare Foods.

The West Riding County Council took over the distribution of these foods from the Ministry of Food on the 28th June, 1954. The transfer was effected smoothly and without any inconvenience to the public. The foods concerned are National Dried Milk, Orange Juice, Cod Liver Oil, and Vitamin A and D Tablets. These are now sold at Dunford House and the Infant Welfare Centres in the division by clerical staff, not by the nurses, who in my opinion should be employed in advising mothers.

Domestic Help Service.

Establishment of Domestic Helps 17-24 Full time
 No. of Domestic Helps employed 52 Part time
 Cases provided with Domestic Help during the year ended 31st December, 1954 :

		No. of Cases	Hours
1. Maternity (including expectant mothers)	.. ..	76	7782
2. Tuberculosis .. .. .	.. ..	6	462
3. Chronic Sick (including aged and infirm)	.. ..	220	39134
4. Others .. .. .	.. ..	26	1412
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals .. .. .	.. ..	328	48790
		<hr/>	<hr/>
	1952	1953	1954
Average No. of staff (part-time) ..	34	47	52
Total Hours	31652	39399	48790

This service continues to expand. The Service is not a free one and each case is assessed by the Divisional Welfare Officer. The number of hours allocated to any case is decided by the Divisional Medical Officer who is aware that some cases think they could do with more assistance but this extra must come off someone else's quota and is not always possible without causing hardship. The Service is a form of assistance, only in maternity cases and other exceptional cases is it possible to provide a full-time Home Help. Voluntary sources of help should be encouraged and in my opinion it is a policy of defeatism to ignore the responsibility of relatives who are expected to assist.

In the majority of cases and particularly in dealing with Old Age Pensioners no charge is made. The Home Helps have worked very well and in many cases willingly carry out duties in difficult and trying circumstances. A minority of old people are not easy to deal with.

The work of the Home Helps is supervised by the Health Visitors. It is one of the most important social services and its use is bound to extend in the future.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE.

Mentally Defective Persons.

		Division No. 26
1.	(a) Total No.	121
	(b) No. ascertained during 1954	11
2.	(a) No. under Guardianship	3
	(b) No. under Statutory Supervision	102
	(c) No. under Voluntary Supervision or Observation	15
	(d) No. on licence from Institutions	1
3.	(a) No. awaiting Institution admission	8
	(b) No. attending Group Training Classes	20
	(c) No. receiving Home Training	8
	(d) No. in Remunerative Employment	40

Steady progress has been made in improving the lot of those who by accident of birth or subsequent disease of mental ill health, have had their mental powers dulled in comparison with others. A Social Worker, Miss Ball, visits the homes of those on licence from mental hospitals and also visits on request those who have been discharged and who may require advice and help and assists in placing them in employment.

Classes for the training of Mental Defectives are held at Dunford House, Rock House and Barbers Ave. The instructors are Mrs. L. Feasey, who has just returned from a years training at Manchester. She is assisted by Mrs. O. Leary. With instruction there is a remarkable change in the outlook of the children and adults. They are taught simple crafts and are given social training. These now attending will form the nucleus for the Occupation Centre which will eventually be built at Wath-upon-Dearne. All our Mental Health Workers are performing great work of great value to the community.

Some of our most difficult cases have been admitted to institution but there are still a few most urgent cases on the waiting list. The difficulty in gaining admission is due to two causes, (1) an acute shortage of accommodation, (2) a shortage of trained mental health nurses.

AFTER-CARE ON DISCHARGE FROM HOSPITAL.

	No. of Cases
Assisted by Midwife (discharged before the 14th day)	219
Assisted by Home Nurse	16
Assisted by Health Visitor	198
Background Reports provided for hospital staffs	242
Number of Patients referred to Medical Officer on discharge	433

The Divisional Medical Officer is notified of all admissions and discharges from hospital by arrangement with the Regional Board. In some cases the hospital doctors request information concerning the patients home conditions.

On discharge Home Nurses, Midwives or Health Visitors may visit the home and supply nursing care and advice. The mental health workers supply the same need for the mentally sick on discharge from hospital. The Health Visitor also visits those discharged from Sanatoria.

Equipment and even hospital beds with lifting poles, etc. can be supplied on loan, free of charge.

CHILDREN LIKELY TO BE NEGLECTED OR ILL-TREATED IN THEIR OWN HOMES.

The Divisional Medical Officer is the co-ordinating officer for this service. Such cases are kept under review and close contact is maintained with all those who may assist in prevention. In Wath it was necessary to prosecute in two instances for long standing neglect due to failure of the husband to go to work and provide for his family. Both cases were proved and sentences were awarded by the magistrate—prosecutions are fortunately very rare but children must be protected from the effects of idleness in their parents who have been given every chance before prosecution to alter their way of life.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

All the schools in the division are visited and sometime in the course of the year the children are immunised in school with parental consent. The immunisation rate for the age group 5 to 15 is excellent. More children under five should be immunised however, and if Diphtheria returns it will attack and kill the unprotected under 5's whose foolish parents have decided to defer immunisation until the child attends school.

SMALLPOX VACCINATION.

Number of Persons Vaccinated or Re-vaccinated during 1954.

Age at 31.12.54, <i>i.e.</i> , born in years	Under 1 1954	1—4 1950/53	5—14 1940/49	15 or over before 1940	Total
No. vaccinated :					
Wath	43	14	2	1	60
Swinton ..	3	2	—	4	9
Rawmarsh ..	42	5	2	3	52
No. re-vaccinated :					
Wath	—	—	—	5	5
Swinton ..	—	—	—	2	2
Rawmarsh ..	—	—	—	4	4

Protection by vaccination is the only safeguard against this virus disease which can carry a case mortality of 30 per cent. There has been an increase in the number of vaccinations performed in Wath and Rawmarsh. This increase is due to vaccination performed at Infant Welfare Centres in the two districts. Generally South Yorkshire has a very low vaccination rate, one of the lowest in the Country. It is often too late to

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Urban District	No. of Children Immunised in 1954			No. of Children given booster doses during 1954	No. of Children Immunised at any time up to 31/12/54			Estimated Mid-Year Population			Percentage		
	Under 5 Yrs.	5—14 Yrs.	Total		Under 5 Yrs.	5—14 Yrs.	Total	Under 5 Yrs.	5—14 Yrs.	Total	Under 5 Yrs.	5—14 Yrs.	
Wath	..	151	101	252	393	606	1863	2469	1192	2246	3438	50.8	82.9
Swinton	..	158	102	260	379	566	1832	2398	966	1866	2832	58.6	98.2
Rawmarsh	..	195	85	280	269	552	2709	3261	1590	3048	4638	34.7	88.9

be vaccinated when the disease has actually broken out in the midst of a community and in any case bodily disturbance and complications from vaccination are at their minimum in infancy when all primary vaccination should be completed.

WHOOPING COUGH.

This is offered at the County Clinics to children under 4 years of age. It will prevent the severe manifestation of the disease and is 75-80 per cent. effective in preventing the disease altogether. Protection should be commenced early at 3/12 of age as the mortality and severe complications of this disease are highest in extreme infancy. It is too late to commence immunisation when the child is whooping.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE.

There are approximately 8,600 children on the school register in the division. All are medically examined on school entry on transfer to Secondary School and before leaving. If any defects are found they may be examined at regular intervals until health is restored. Treatment is carried out by referring the cases to Family Doctors or hospitals. The Service is run in close co-operation with the Family Doctors and Paediatrician, Dr. C. Harvey.

At the end of the year we commenced checking all school entrants for exposure to Tuberculosis by means of a jelly test—the positive reactors were referred to the chest Clinics for further examination. The Mass Radiography Service visited Wath and all Secondary Modern School children aged 13 years and over were offered X-ray. One case of active adult type (symptomless) tuberculosis was diagnosed after a further period of observation in 1955. The case was resident out of the area of the Health Division.

Dr. M. R. Menzies apart from her duties of routine school medical inspection spends a great deal of time on the ascertainment of the various grades of Handicapped children from the Educational Subnormal to Physically Handicapped. This work requires great skill and patience and is one of the means of deciding the best school for the individual handicapped child. In this work we are assisted by Dr. Harvey and all the facilities of the Children's Hospital and Specialist hospitals in Sheffield.

Clinics Held by the School Health Service.

Ultra Violet Light	Wath and Rawmarsh.
Ophthalmic Clinics	Wath and Rawmarsh.
Child Guidance Clinic	Rawmarsh.
Paediatric Clinic	Rawmarsh.
Orthopaedic Clinic	Rawmarsh.
E.N.T. Clinic	Montagu Hospital.
Speech Therapy	Swinton.

Inspections of School Children 1954.

Entrants	744
Last year in Primary School	518
School Leavers	628
Total	1890
Number of Special Inspections	2509
Number of Re-inspections	881
Total	3390
Grand Total of Inspections carried out	5280

Cleanliness of School Children and Head Infestation.

	<i>Total Children Infested</i>	<i>School Population</i>	<i>Percentage Infested</i>
Rawmarsh and Parkgate	404	3349	12.1
Swinton and Kilnhurst	62	1529	4.1
Wath and West Melton	102	2725	3.7

Comparative Figures.

			<i>W.R.C.C.</i>	<i>Eng. and Wales</i>
	1953	1954	1954	
Total No. infested ..	488	568	—	—
Total Children ..	7483	7603	—	—
Total percentage ..	6.5	7.5	5.3	

Detailed Breakdown of Figures.

District	GIRLS			BOYS		
	No. Infested	Popula- tion	Percent- age	No. Infested	Popula- tion	Percent- age
Rawmarsh	299	1590	18.8	105	1759	5.9
Swinton	50	765	6.5	12	764	1.6
Wath	77	1325	5.8	25	1400	1.8
Division	426	3680	11.6	142	3923	3.6

The School population is an average population for the year and excludes the Grammar School. There was a small improvement in cleanliness in Wath and Swinton and no improvement in Rawmarsh, where the figures for infestation given are three times as high as in the other two Districts.

Care of Handicapped Children.

Day Residential School for E.S.N. Pupils	2
Residential School for E.S.N. Pupils	4
Hostel for Maladjusted Boys	1
Residential School for Deaf or Partially Deaf Pupils	8
Residential School for Deaf E.S.N. Pupils	1
Residential School for Partially-sighted Pupils	3
Residential School for Blind Pupils	—
Residential School for Delicate Pupils	1
Residential School for Spastic Pupils	1
Orthopaedic Hospital School	2
	—
	23
	—
No. of children receiving Home Education	3
Total No. of children receiving education other than at an ordinary school	26

The number of children satisfactorily placed in special schools, catering for their disability has increased with the increased accommodation now available in the County Area.

Details of Medical Examinations Carried Out for Various Authorities.

College Entrants examined	34
Teachers examined	5
Superannuation Examinations for (County)	34
Superannuation Examinations for (Local Councils)	2

MASS RADIOGRAPHY.

Details of Survey carried out at Dunford House, Wath-upon-Dearne:

Education Staffs.

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Teachers	68	147	215
Caretakers, cleaners, canteen, etc.	9	152	161
			—
			376

Nurses, Health Visitors, etc. ..	—	25	25
---	---	----	----

School Children of 13 Plus.

Wath Grammar School ..	232	240	472
Park Road Sec. Mod. ..	67	66	133
Brampton Sec. Mod. ..	140	106	246
St. Joseph's R.C. School ..	7	4	11
			—
			862

WATH-UPON-DEARNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector for the Year 1954

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Wath-upon-Dearne Urban District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my report on the work carried out during the year ended 31st December, 1954.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

During the year the following inspections were made :

Nature of Inspection	Number of Inspections made
Houses for structural defects (housing inspections)	382
Houses re overcrowding	6
Premises re nuisances :	
Houses re vermin and insect pests	175
Drainage and sanitary conveniences	463
Dustbins and refuse accommodation	192
Offensive accumulations	62
Paving yards and passages	23
Keeping animals	21
Filthy premises	17
Factories	4
Smoke observations	8
Visits re refuse collection	53
Visits re refuse disposal	45
Dairies and milk shops	35
Ice cream premises	5
Food shops	64
Restaurants, canteens and other food preparing premises ..	22
Bakehouses	1
Slaughterhouses	24
Meat inspection visits	317
Hairdressers' premises	7
Common lodging houses	7
Rats and mice inspections	148
Visits for sampling food etc.	63
Inspection of caravan dwellings	11

Schools	1
Swimming baths	9
Visits re infectious diseases	30
Miscellaneous visits	101
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Total	2296
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Complaints Received.

388 complaints were received at my office during the year. The number received each year continues to rise, probably due to the delay which occurs in the execution of repairs to houses. The complaints have been classified as follows :

Nature of Complaint	Number of Complaints received
Choked or leaking drains	134
General housing defects	72
Defective sinks	4
Defective eaves gutters and fallpipes	9
Smoke nuisances	6
Dilapidated dustbins	16
Defective sanitary conveniences	25
Defective yard and passage paving	3
Dirty premises	5
Vermin and other insect pests	11
Accumulations	10
Delay in dustbin emptying	24
Overcrowding	3
Keeping of animal nuisances	5
Rats and mice infestations	39
Inadequate water supply	4
Burst pipes	2
Miscellaneous	16
	<hr/>
Total	388
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Particulars of Notices Served under Public Health Acts and West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951.

Number of written informal notices served requiring nuisances and housing defects to be remedied	231
Number complied with	156*
Number of verbal intimations given	149
Number of verbal intimations complied with	133*
Number of statutory notices served re nuisances (excluding housing repairs)	35
Number complied with by owner or occupier	30*
Number of statutory notices served requiring housing defects to be remedied	12

Number complied with by owner	3*
Number of notices where work executed by local authorities in default of owner	11
Number of notices where works executed by owner after the institution of legal proceedings	Nil

The statutory notices served included notices under powers contained in the Public Health Act, 1936, section 24 (maintenance of length of public sewer), 39 (repair of drainage), 44 (provision of additional watercloset accommodation), 45 (repairs to waterclosets), 75 (renewal of dustbins), 93 (abatement of nuisances) and under the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951, section 53 (cleansing choked drains) and 69 (provision of dustbins).

Nature of Defects Remedied Under Public Health Acts.

Choked drains, gullies, etc., cleansed	117
Drains reconstructed or repaired	14
Watercloset fittings repaired or renewed	31
Watercloset structures repaired	2
Additional waterclosets provided	2
Sink waste pipes renewed	9
Sinks renewed	14
Water tanks renewed	2
Washing boilers renewed	1
Dustbins renewed	84
Accumulations removed	15
Keeping of animal nuisances abated	7
Dirty and/or verminous premises cleansed	12
Insect pest infestations cleared	16
Rodent infestations cleared	46
Yards and passages paved	2
Roofs repaired	13
Chimney stacks repaired	4
Chimney pots renewed	1
Smoke nuisances abated	6
Eaves gutters and fallpipes renewed	28
Fractured walls repaired	14
Walls re-pointed	2
Wall and ceiling plaster repaired	41
Window frames repaired	7
Fireplaces and cooking ranges repaired	18
Hearth repaired	1
Skirting boards renewed	1
Floors repaired	8
Doors repaired	10
Miscellaneous defects remedied	13

HOUSING.

The amount of repair work carried out to privately owned dwelling houses was considerably less than is required each year if such houses are to be maintained in a good state of repair. Inspections were carried

* Includes notices served prior to 1954 but complied with in 1954.

out mainly with a view to remedying urgent housing defects and nuisances. There was, however, a fair amount of improvement work carried out, chiefly installation of modern cooking ranges and fireplaces, replacement of coal-fired coppers by gas coppers or electric washers, and of old stone sinks by white glazed sinks. These improvements were sometimes carried out by the occupiers at their own expense, or by agreement between landlord and tenant. The creation of conditions which will encourage more building trade workers to be engaged on the repair, reconditioning and improvement of dwelling houses is required.

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, came into operation during the year resulting in 10 applications being received from tenants for certificates of disrepair, nine of which were granted.

Little progress was made with the removal of those worn-out unfit houses which are not worth repairing and cannot be made fit for human habitation. Following receipt of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government Circular No. 55/54 a report was presented to the Public Health Committee submitting draft proposals for slum clearnace. This report showed the estimated number of unfit houses requiring demolition to be 251 ; these to be cleared in 5 years. Of this number, 208 should be dealt with in Clearance Areas and 43 as individual unfit houses under section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936. The draft proposals were approved by the Council for submission to the Minister.

Housing statistics for the year are as follows :

Number of dwelling houses in district	.. .. .	4559
Number of back-to-back houses included in above	.. ..	14
1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year :		
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	.. .. .	114
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	..	382
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations	.. .. .	2
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	..	36
(3) Number of dwelling houses needing further action :		
(a) Number considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	.. .. .	1
(b) Number (excluding those in sub-head (3) (a) above), found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	.. .. .	91
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :		
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	.. .. .	68

3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the year :	
A.	Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16, Housing Acts, 1936 :	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	1
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By owners	Nil
(b)	By Local Authority	1
B.	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	12
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By owners	3
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ..	Nil
C.	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1)	Number of representations, etc., made in respect of dwelling houses unfit for habitation	1
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(3)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	3
(4)	Any action under Sections 10 and 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953	Nil
D.	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms, the Closing Orders in respect of which were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil
4.	New Houses.	
	Number of new houses provided during the year :	
	By Local Authority Permanent type	74
	Temporary type	Nil
	By Private Enterprise	18
5.	Housing Act, 1949.	
	Any action in connection with :	
(a)	Section 4—Advances for purpose of increasing housing accommodation	Nil
(b)	Section 20—Grants to person other than local authorities for improvement of housing accommodation	Nil

Sanitary Accommodation.

The following table shows the number of dwelling houses and other buildings in the five Wards of the District and the sanitary accommodation provided thereat :

Ward	Dwelling Houses	Dwelling Houses with Shop (included in Col. 1)	Shops and Factories	Miscellaneous Buildings	Privies	Waterclosets	Fixed Ashpits		Dustbins	Cesspools	Slop Closets	Chemical Closets
							Wet	Dry				
Central	1608	46	51	40	8	2348	6	11	1659	6	—	7
East	725	33	15	15	19	846	8	1	740	5	—	4
Wharncliffe	791	26	28	16	—	943	—	1	862	1	—	—
Winterwell	644	42	26	15	2	739	1	2	678	1	1	—
Melton	791	27	23	18	—	870	—	4	808	2	—	—
Totals	4559	174	143	104	29	5746	15	19	4747	15	1	11

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

Three caravans used for human habitation were permanently stationed in the District during the year. The vans are on separate sites and licences authorising them to be stationed in the District were issued in two instances. One caravan is not licenced as it is excepted from this requirement by virtue of paragraph 5 (1) (a) Section 269, Public Health Act, 1936. One application for a licence to station a caravan in the District was refused during the year.

Cleansing of Dirty and Verminous Premises.

The problem of ridding houses of bed-bugs appears to have been almost completely solved and very little infestation of this kind was found during the year. Cockroach (black beetle) infestations are however very common and eradication of these pests is difficult. Thorough cleanliness of premises is essential to the eradication of these insects. The removal of brick-built coal fired washing coppers from many dwelling houses, by taking away places of harbourage, has been found to assist in clearing infestations.

The furniture and household effects belonging to two families were fumigated prior to removal from old houses to new Council houses. The work was carried out by a fumigation contractor using Hydrogen Cyanide Gas.

The Council's employees treated 17 houses for the destruction of cockroaches. Powder insecticides containing D.D.T. or "Gammexane" are mainly used for this work, but liquid insecticides were used occasionally.

Control of Insect Pests.

Advice and assistance were given on several occasions in connection with the destruction of insect pests. Several Council houses were sprayed

externally to destroy red spider mite (*Bryobia*). Removal of accumulations of refuse were insisted upon and treatment of refuse tips carried out to prevent nuisance from flies. It was noted on several occasions during the summer that flies were numerous in houses which were dirty and overheated with large coal fires, but were few in the houses which were relatively clean and cool. One Council house was treated to destroy crickets.

Rodent Infestation Control.

Where infestations of rats and mice were cleared by the Council the work was done by a Rodent Operator employed part-time on this work. Dwelling house premises, including allotments, are treated without charge to the occupier, but the cost of labour and of the materials used is paid for by the owner or occupier where business premises are dealt with.

The methods of treatment used are those recommended by the Infestation Control Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and were usually successful in clearing infestations.

Test baits were laid in 10% of the foul sewer manholes in the District in December. No evidence of infestation of the sewers was found and treatment of the sewers was considered to be unnecessary.

The following table records the work carried out during the year ended 31st March, 1955 :

Type of Property	No. of Properties Inspected	Number Infested with Rats	Number Infested with Mice	No. of infested Properties treated by Local Authority
Local Authority Depots, etc. ..	6	5	1	5
Dwelling houses	105	30	4	34
Business premises	30	7	11	6
Agricultural premises	4	1	—	1
Totals	145	43	16	46

Atmospheric Pollution.

Pollution from industrial premises arises from boiler chimneys at two collieries and 4 or 5 factories, railway engines, coke oven plants, steam cranes and other miscellaneous chimneys and sources of pollution in the industrial zone of the area. The Council have no apparatus for measuring the atmospheric pollution and therefore the degree of pollution emanating from the industrial zone is not recorded.

Action taken during the year consisted chiefly in bringing pressure to bear upon the National Coal Board to abate the serious smoke nuisance arising from one Colliery chimney. It appears to be impossible to secure any real improvement until electrification of the colliery winding gear has been completed and put into operation, which may be done in 1955.

In my opinion the nuisance arising from domestic smoke is, in this District, greater than that arising from industrial smoke emission, and probably more difficult to remedy. Some progress can be made however, by ensuring that all the houses in the District are fitted with appliances which enable them to be smokeless during the summer months. Electric, gas, oil and smokeless solid fuel appliances and supplies should be sufficient to meet the needs of domestic cooking, washing, etc., during summer when space heating requirements are small. Progress in this direction is going on at present but it is very slow and should be accelerated.

Inspection of Factories.

The following Tables give particulars of the number of inspections made and action taken during 1954 :

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948. Part 1 of the Act of 1937.

1. Inspections for Purposes of Provisions as to Health :

Premises	Number on Register	Number of :		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority ..	9	1	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority ..	36	4	1	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	6	4	—	—
Total	51	9	1	Nil

Premises	Number of cases in which defects found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	1	1	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :					
(a) Insufficient	1	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	4	4	—	—	—
Total	6	5	—	—	—

Hairdressers' and Barbers' Premises.

Registration of these premises and of the person carrying on the business is now required under the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951. Premises are gradually being improved so as to comply with a reasonable standard.

No byelaws have yet been made with respect to maintaining cleanliness of the premises and of the persons employed therein.

Public Baths.

Twelve samples of water taken from the public swimming bath were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, 6 samples for bacteriological examination and 6 for chemical examination, the results being as follows :

Sample No.	Probable Number of Coliform bacilli MacConkey 2 days 37	Probable Number of Faecal coli	p.H. Value	Free Chlorine in 1,000,000 parts water
1	1 per 100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.	—	—
2	—	—	8.0	0.25
3	0 per 100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.	—	—
4	—	—	8.2	0.15
5	0 per 100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.	—	—
6	—	—	7.3	0.25
7	1 per 100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.	—	—
8	—	—	7.3	0.15
9	0 per 100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.	—	—
10	—	—	7.6	0.1
11	1 per 100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.	—	—
12	—	—	7.2	less than 0.1

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES.

Milk and Dairies.

The Milk (Special Designation) (Specified Areas) Order, 1953, is in operation in the District and all milk retailed in the area is delivered to the consumer in bottles and is designated milk, being either "Pasteurised," "Tuberculin Tested" or "Sterilised" milk.

Notices were served under the Milk Special Designation Regulations on two retailers, of the Council's proposals to suspend or revoke their licences for the sale of designated milk. As a result one retailer provided the necessary dairy accommodation for the proper storage of milk and milk bottles. The other dairyman ceased to carry on the business in this District.

A few of the retailers in the District fail to use the dairy accommodation which they have so as to properly store bottled milk and empty milk bottles, and they make a practice of leaving crates of bottled milk and empty milk bottles in the streets, on waste land, backyards, etc. Letters were sent during the year to several retailers calling their attention to their failure in these matters and asking them to set a good example to the public in care and cleanliness in handling bottled milk and empty milk bottles.

The number of licences issued during the year for the sale of designated milk was as follows :

Designation of Milk	Type of Licence	Number of Licences Granted
Sterilised	Supplementary	3
Pasteurised	Supplementary	4
Tuberculin tested	Supplementary	3
Sterilised	Dealer's	20
Pasteurised	Dealer's	8
Tuberculin tested	Dealer's	7

A considerable amount of work is necessitated by the need for granting these licences annually. In Districts which are included in "specified areas" the powers of the local authority to refuse, suspend or revoke a licence are so restricted that annual licensing appears to give little means of control.

There appears to be a tendency for producers to ignore the requirements of the Regulations requiring the bottles to be conspicuously labelled or marked with the designation of the milk.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

Ten samples of milk were purchased during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination, and the results are tabulated below.

The samples were all of designated milk contained in bottles and obtained from the dealer immediately before delivery to the consumer. Satisfactory reports were received on all 10 samples, indicating that a satisfactory bacteriological standard was maintained, and that milk sold as "Pasteurised" had been properly pasteurised.

Sample No.	Date of Sampling	Grade of Milk	Methylene Blue Test Decolourisation Period	Phosphatase Test L.B.U. Reading
498	17.2.54	Tuberculin Tested	N	1.7
		(Pasteurised)		
499	17.2.54	Pasteurised	N	1.8
500	17.2.54	Tuberculin Tested	N	1.6
		(Pasteurised)		
501	17.2.54	Pasteurised	N	1.7
502	17.2.54	Sterilised	(Turbidity Test—Good. Satisfactory)	Report
509	24.6.54	Pasteurised	N	1.8
510	24.6.54	Tuberculin Tested	N	—
511	24.6.54	Tuberculin Tested	N	1.7
		(Pasteurised)		
512	24.6.54	Accredited (farm bottled)	N	—
513	24.6.54	Tuberculin Tested	N	—

Biological Examination of Milk.

The practice of taking samples of milk at dairy farms for examination for the presence of Tubercle bacilli was continued during the year and 16 samples were obtained, and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory. Evidence of tuberculosis was found in one sample. Steps were taken to make sure that all milk from the farm was properly heat-treated before sale. The officers of the Ministry of Agriculture visited the farm and one infected cow was removed from the herd.

Inspection of Meat.

In accordance with the requirements of the Government, the Council gave careful consideration to the question of ensuring that sufficient slaughtering accommodation would be available to meet the needs of the District following decontrol of meat and livestock in July.

A report was presented to the Public Health Committee suggesting standards with which private slaughterhouse premises should comply, and these standards were approved and adopted by the Council.

Inspections and reports were made on five slaughterhouses in the District. In the case of one slaughterhouse, the Council considered that it was not practicable to render the premises suitable for use and an application for a licence was refused. Notices were served in connection with four slaughterhouses setting out works required to make the premises suitable. The works were carried out at three slaughterhouses and licences were issued permitting slaughtering to be carried on. Slaughtering has, however, only been carried out at two slaughterhouses in the District.

During the latter half of the year, meat inspection has taken up a fair amount of time. To ensure an adequate meat inspection service reciprocal arrangements were entered into with Dearne Urban District Council which would provide for a Meat Inspector from that District to be available if I was absent from duty.

The following table gives particulars of animals slaughtered and inspected, and of fresh killed meat condemned :

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	140	80	—	670	303*
Number inspected	140	80	—	280	303*
All Diseases except Tuberculosis:					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	6	4	—	2	7
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	27	31	—	—	20

* Figures include pigs slaughtered on behalf of cottagers either at licensed slaughterhouses or on unlicensed premises.

Total weight of fresh killed meat condemned 2172 lbs.

All diseased meat condemned was stained green at the slaughterhouse premises, and was subsequently collected for use in a maggot factory except for occasional small quantities which were destroyed by the local authority.

Slaughter of Cottagers' Pigs.

Reports were presented to the Public Health Committee on the slaughter of cottagers' pigs with a view to securing an improvement in the conditions under which such animals are slaughtered and the meat is sold. Information was subsequently circulated to pig keepers of the Council's requirements concerning Notice of slaughter, humane slaughter, premises considered suitable for use for slaughtering purposes, transport of carcase meat and offal, storage and preparation of meat for sale.

Slaughter of Animals Acts 1933 to 1954.

Fifteen licences were in operation during the year which the Council had granted authorising the holder of the licence to slaughter animals in a slaughterhouse. The licences are held by persons engaged in slaughtering cottagers' pigs, and also, since 1st July, 1954, in slaughtering animals in the two slaughterhouses in the District.

Humane methods of slaughter, using the captive bolt pistol, were practised, both in connection with cottagers' pigs slaughtered on unlicensed premises and other animals slaughtered in licensed slaughterhouses.

Inspection of Other Foods.

The following foodstuffs were condemned at foodshops :

Articles of Food					No. of Cans, Jars or Packets	Weight (lbs.)
Canned Meat	..	..	..	..	39	157
Canned Fish	..	..	..	..	11	4½
Canned Milk	..	..	..	..	13	22
Preserves	..	..	..	..	21	23½
Canned Vegetables	..	..	..	..	121	227
Canned Fruit	..	..	..	..	74	109
Sauce and Pickles	..	..	..	..	6	3¼
Pudding mixture	..	..	..	..	9	4½
Rice, etc.	..	..	..	..	—	7½
Skim Milk Powder	..	..	..	..	—	1175¼
Coffee Essence	..	..	..	..	3	1
Figs	..	..	..	..	—	3
Dates	..	..	..	..	12	6
Fish Cakes	..	..	..	..	3	¼
Tongue	..	..	..	..	—	8¾
Bacon	..	..	..	..	—	8½
Sausages	..	..	..	..	—	17
Cheese	..	..	..	..	—	40½
Totals					312	1818

All the unsound food was surrendered by the owners, and was collected and destroyed by the local authority.

Hygiene of Food Premises.

214 visits were made to food shops, canteens, bakehouses, slaughter-houses and other premises on which food is prepared and handled for sale, with a view to promoting a high hygienic standard. Conjointly with the Education Authority a Course of Lectures in Food Hygiene for persons engaged in food shops, canteens, etc., was arranged but failed because an insufficient number of persons enrolled for the Course.

An application for the registration of a vehicle for use as a mobile fried fish shop was dealt with at the beginning of the year. The need for registration enabled discussion to take place with the proprietor as to the equipment of the vehicle to a satisfactory standard.

Conversion of premises for use as a snack-bar took place in one instance during the year. The law does not require resgitation or licensing in the case of these premises and the business was commenced under unsatisfactory hygienic conditions.

Ice Cream Premises.

There are no premises in the District registered for the manufacture of ice cream and most of the ice cream sold in the area is pre-packed and is sold from shops where the ice cream is stored in continuous freezing cabinets. Two shops were registered during the year, bringing the total of food shops registered for the sale of ice cream to 29.

Sixteen samples of ice cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination and the results are tabulated below. The temperature in the freezing cabinet was checked when samples were taken, and on each occasion was found to be well below the maximum temperature permitted.

Sample No.	Sample obtained from Shop or Vehicle	Result of Methylene Blue Test. Period of Decolourisation	Provisional Grade	Remarks Type of Pack
79	Shop	Not decolourised	1	Unopened tub
80	Shop	Not decolourised	1	Wrapped block
81	Shop	Not decolourised	1	Wrapped block
82	Shop	Not decolourised	1	Unopened tub
83	Shop	Decolourised in 3 hours	2	Unopened tub
84	Shop	Not decolourised	1	Unopened tub
85	Cinema	Not decolourised	1	Unopened tub
86	Shop	Not decolourised	1	Unopened tub
98	Shop	Not decolourised	1	Wrapped block
99	Shop	Not decolourised	1	Unopened tub
100	Shop	Not decolourised	1	Unopened tub
101	Shop	Not decolourised	1	Unopened tub
102	Shop	Not decolourised	1	Wrapped block
103	Shop	Decolourised in 4 hours	2	Unopened tub
104	Shop	Not decolourised	1	Unopened tub
105	Shop	Not decolourised	1	Unopened tub

Synthetic Cream.

More attention was given during the year to the Bacteriological quality of the synthetic cream which is prepared in bakehouses for use in cakes and confectionery and 14 samples were obtained and sent to the Public Health Laboratory, the following reports being received :

Sample No.	Date Sample Taken	Type of Sample	Report		
			Plate Count (per gramme)	Coliforms	Pathogenic Organisms
87	13.5.54	Whipped Cream	80,000	Non-faecal coli in 0.001 gramme	None isolated
88	13.5.54	Whipped Cream	400,000	Faecal coli in 0.001 gramme	None isolated
89	25.5.54	Whipped Cream	250,000	Non-faecal coli in 0.001 ml.	None isolated
90	25.5.54	Liquid Cream	Uncountable at 1/1000th dilution	Not isolated	None isolated
92	8.7.54	Liquid Cream	1,100	None isolated	None isolated
93	8.7.54	Whipped Cream	33,000	B. Coli type I in 0.01 ml.	None isolated
94	8.7.54	Whipped Cream	80,000	Non-faecal Coli in 0.0001 ml. Faecal coli in 0.01 ml.	None isolated
95	8.7.54	Liquid Cream	36,000	None faecal coli in 0.1 ml.	None isolated
96	8.7.54	Liquid Cream	58,000	None isolated	None isolated
97	8.7.54	Whipped Cream	Uncountable	Non-faecal coli in 0.0001 ml.	None isolated
106	11.11.54	Cream cake containing Whipped Cream	84,000	Non-faecal coli in 0.001 ml.	None isolated
107	11.11.54	Whipped Cream	40,000	Non-faecal coli in 0.01 gramme	None isolated
108	11.11.54	Whipped Cream	2,000	No coliforms isolated	None isolated
109	11.11.54	Whipped Cream	3,500	Non-faecal coli in 0.001 gramme	None isolated

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The efforts to maintain a refuse collection service can only be described as being one long struggle throughout the year. Although the standard accepted for refuse collection is that each dustbin should be

emptied once per week, it was not possible to maintain this and the dustbins were emptied 47 times only during the year. Refuse collection took place at 10 to 14 days intervals during the worst periods. There are many factors responsible for this, one being the greatly increased bulk of the house refuse now collected compared with refuse in the war years. The quantities of waste paper, cardboard boxes and discarded house furnishings have increased greatly since the war, and these bulky materials take up much space in refuse collection lorries. The large capacity refuse collection vehicle with equipment for compacting the refuse is advantageous in use when dealing with these bulky materials. It was also impossible to obtain a sufficient number of suitable employees willing to undertake refuse collection work.

The responsibility for the provision and maintenance of dustbins rests with the owner or occupier of the building concerned. Informal notices, followed by formal notices when necessary, under the provisions of sections 75 Public Health Act 1936, and 69, West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act 1951, were served requiring replacement of worn out dustbins, and no particular difficulty was experienced during the year. In many cases however, considerable delay took place before new dustbins were provided.

All refuse, except salvage, was dealt with at the Wet Moor Lane refuse tip. One man is employed full time in controlling and levelling the tip. The changing character of the refuse, which, particularly in the summer months, consists mainly of light bulky materials, paper, cardboard boxes, cans, garden refuse, etc., results in greater difficulty in maintaining a satisfactory tip. Fires on the tip are becoming more frequent owing to the increased paper content of the refuse.

Salvage work consisted mainly in recovering waste paper and cardboard, ferrous and non-ferrous metals and rags. Considerable quantities of these materials were not recovered because of the lack of labour to do the work.

The following statements with respect to the work done in the collection and disposal of refuse, the income and expenditure incurred, refer to the year ended 31st March, 1955.

Refuse Collection.

Type of Receptacles Emptied	Number Emptied	Number of Loads of Refuse
Dustbins	217,794	2,230
Dry Ashpits	181	10
Privy Ashpits	30	4
Trade refuse bins	1,253	25
Waste paper and cardboard	—	151

Total number of loads collected 2,420

Refuse Disposal.

House and trade refuse delivered at tip	2269 loads
Refuse delivered at tip by private owners	41 „
Refuse delivered at tip by Engineer and Surveyor's Dept.	786 „
Salvage from shops delivered to Skin Yard Depot ..	151 „
	<hr/>
Total number of loads disposed of	3247 „
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Sale of Salvage.

Materials Sold	Weights			
	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Waste Paper	111	10	0	4
Textiles	2	5	3	7
Non-ferrous Metals	—	18	2	1
Ferrous Metals	9	13	2	10
Miscellaneous	—	2	2	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	124	10	1	26
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Expenditure and Income.

Details of expenditure and income are as follows :

<i>Expenditure</i>					£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Refuse collection .. .. .	..	..	..	..	6602	10	10			
Refuse disposal .. .. .	..	..	..	..	984	18	11			
								7587	9	9
<i>Income</i>										
Sale of salvage .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1155	8	7			
Trade refuse and tip charges .. .. .	..	..			32	14	7			
Rents .. .. .	..	..	..	..	4	1	8			
								1192	4	10
Net cost of refuse collection and disposal								£6395	4	11

The net cost of collection and disposal of refuse per 1,000 houses during the year ended 31st March, 1955, was £1402 15s. 5d., compared with £653 11s. 7d. for the year ended 31st March, 1939.

I wish to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council and the Medical Officer of Health and other Officers for the support they have given to the work of the Department during the year, and to all members of the Council's staff for their co-operation and assistance.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. W. WILKINSON

Sanitary Inspector.

